

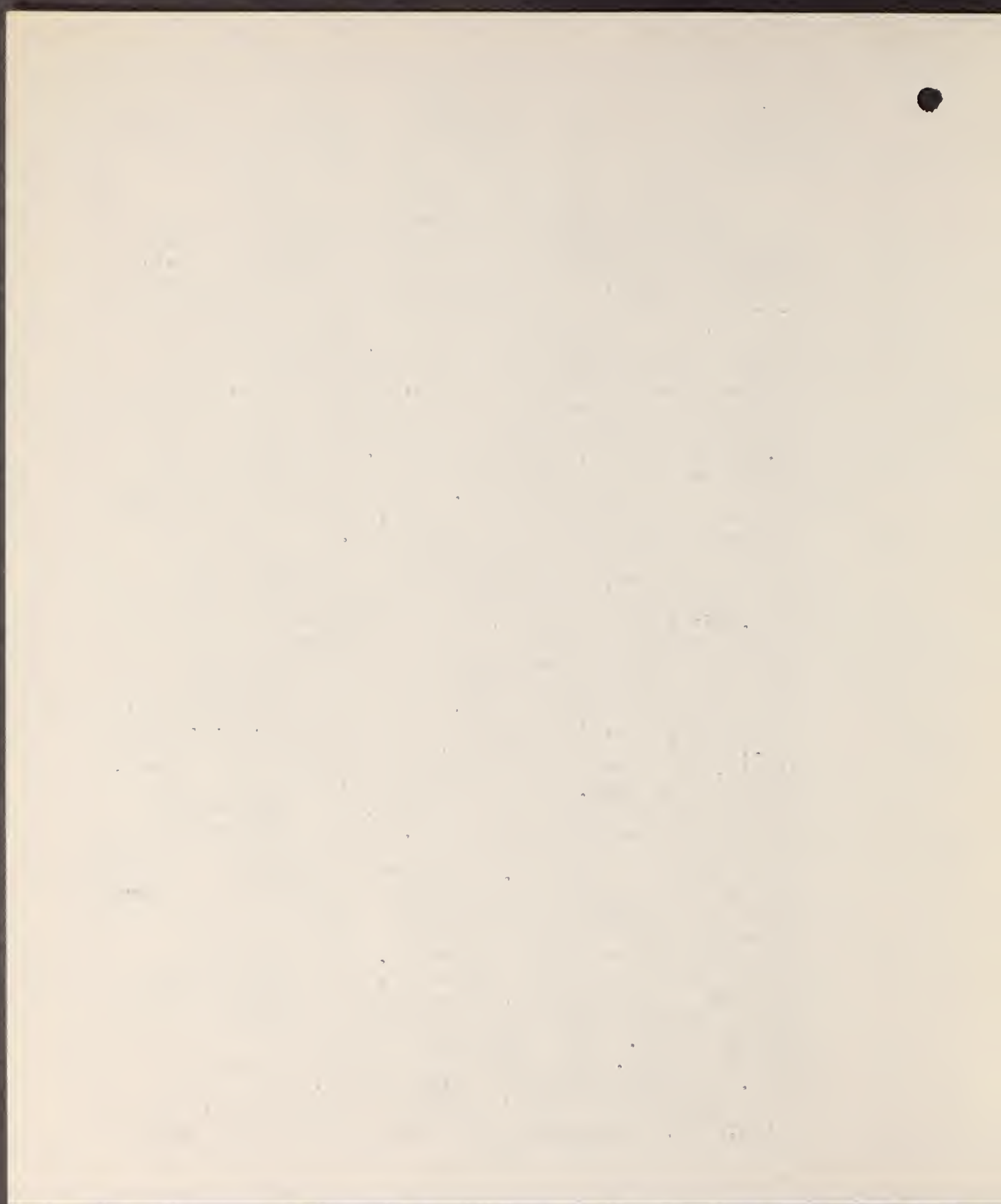
H.C. Burleigh Papers

Folgen

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THE FOLGER BROTHERS

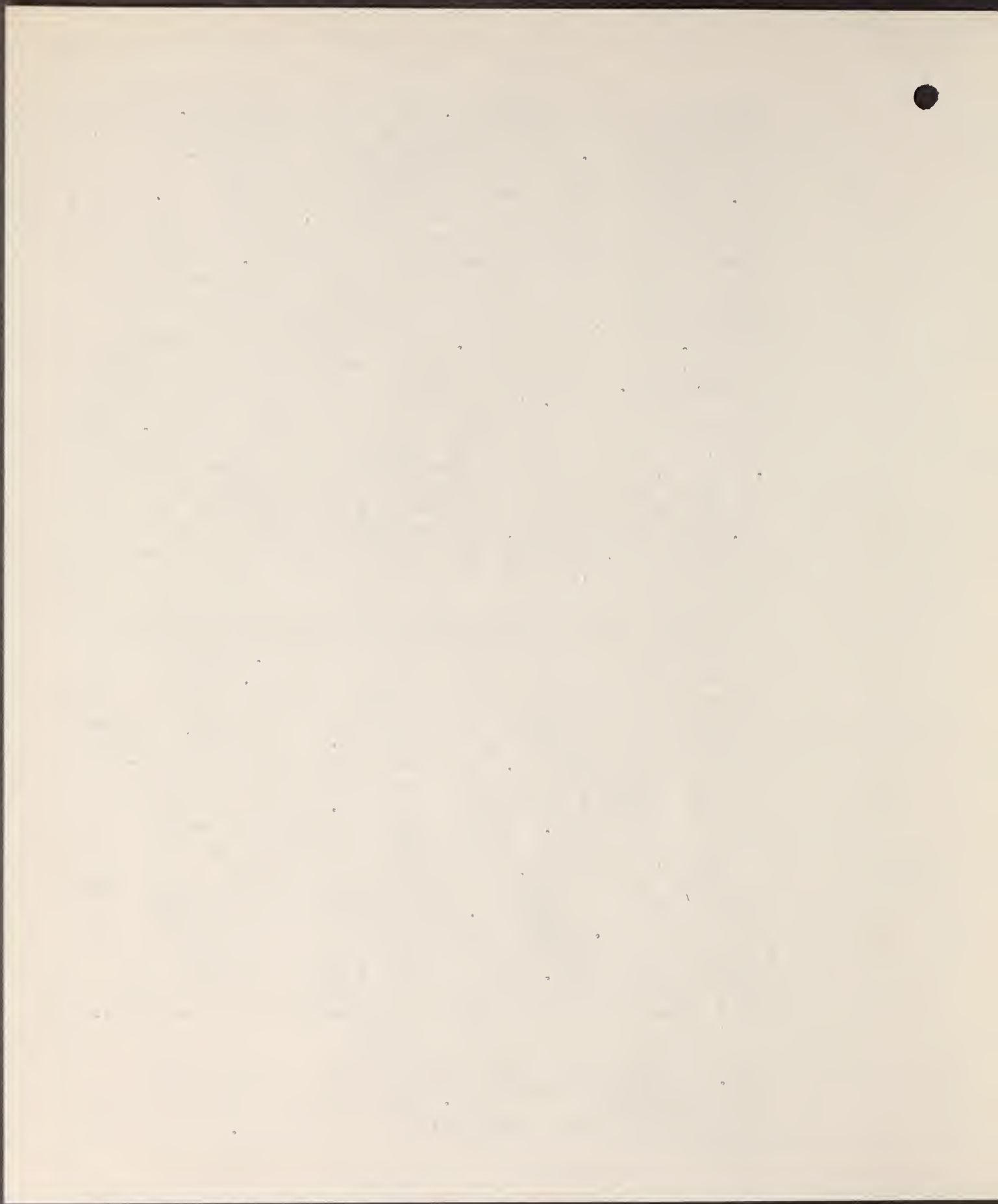
This widely known firm, of Kingston, Ontario, whose portraits precede this sketch, consists of B.W. Folger, born in 1838; Henry Folger, in 1842, and F.A. Folger, in 1851, all at Cape Vincent, Jefferson county, N.Y. They were sons of FREDERICK A FOLGER and LAURA FOLGER, the father being a descendant of Captain MATTHEW FOLGER, of Nantucket, Mass. Their mother was a Miss BRECK, a sister of the junior partner in the Canadian firm of Calvin & Breck. Frederick A. Folger emigrated to Cape Vincent just after the War of 1812-15, and cast his lot at that small country village on the St. Lawrence River, near its source. He was a man of fine intellectual girth and grain, and a poetic vein ran through his composition. He was a ready writer, an excellent critic of literary work, and full of appreciative knowledge of the value of good books. He possessed business talents of a high order, and had he settled in a large town, he would have grasped every sound opportunity to lay the solid foundation of a large fortune. His lamented death, at the early age of 43, was a sad closing of a most promising career; and the following tribute from a contemporary newspaper will show in what high esteem he was held by those who knew his worth and mourned his loss: "Died, on the 28th of September, at Cape Vincent, in the 43d year of his age, F.A. Folger, Esq., the idol of his family, the ornament of the social circle, the useful citizen, the benefactor of the poor, the friend of man. Cut off in the midst of his years and his labors for the public good, his death will be universally and deeply deplored." This tribute proves how strong a place he had won in the hearts of the people where he lived and died. As he was the father of a family that is no doubt destined to fill a large place in the history of commercial and general affairs in the section where they were born, it will be in order to refer to the early history of its pioneers. The following is copied from a Nantucket newspaper, and shows the origin and fame of the Folgers, in connection with that historic town: "Nantucket has been wonderfully prolific of great men and women. Among the first families on the island were the Macys. The folgers are another noteworthy race. The only child of 'Peter Folger,' born after his removal from Martha's Vineyard to Nantucket, was Abiah, who, in her young maidenhood, removed to Boston



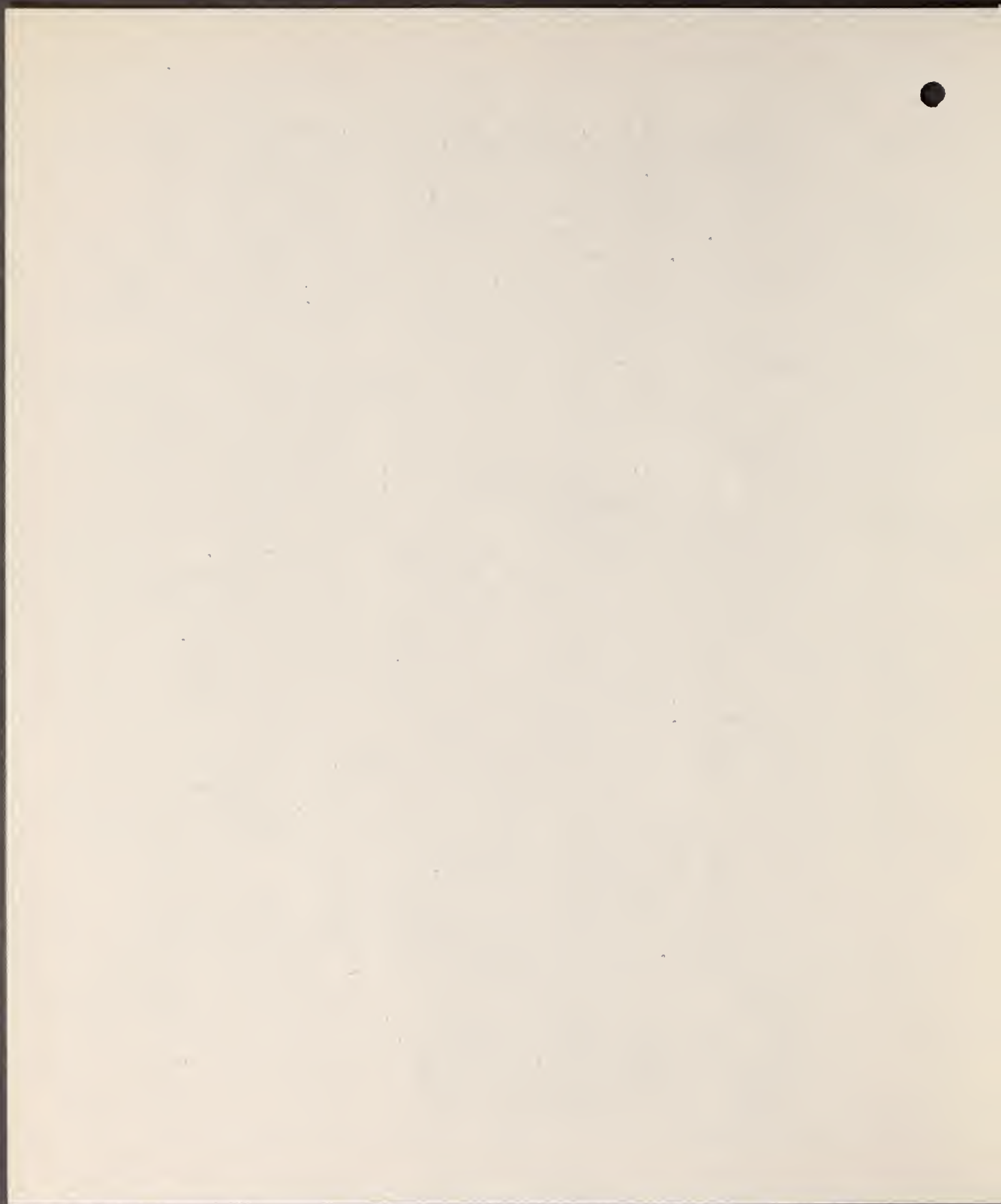
and married Jonah Franklin, the tallow chandler. The fifteenth child by this marriage was Benjamin Franklin, the philosopher. The mother in talent and worth is said to have been every way worthy of her illustrious son. Another member of this family was Charles J. Folger, the present Secretary of the Treasury, who was born in Nantucket, in a house which stood on the site of the present Sherbourne House, on Orange street." Captain Matthew Folger, the grandfather of the subjects of this biographical notice, was an adventurous spirit of his stirring times, and figured conspicuously in marine matters. The Folger Bros. inherit the love of marine affairs, for the name of Folger has long been prominent in this line. It was a Folger who gave the best theory of the Gulf Stream; it was a Captain Folger who rescued the mutineers of the "Bounty" from Pitcairn Island. Miss Breck, who became the happy and worthy wife of Frederick A. Folger, was largely endowed with gentle and loving qualities of head and heart, and her influence in moulding the character of her boys was pure and commanding. She still lives, in the full possession of all her faculties, to enjoy the well won success of her fatherless sons.

These brothers were led to locate in the Canadian city of Kingston in 1862, and were no doubt influenced to do so through their relationship to Mr. Breck, through the marriage of his sister to their father. He was the junior partner in the famous firm of Calvin & Breck, who were for years lords of the river on the Canadian side, in steamboat and rafting operations. Their headquarters were at Garden Island, and from this point many millions of dollars worth of timber were put in shape to be rafted down the rapids of the St. Lawrence for re-shipment to Europe. It may not be generally known that some of the oak which entered into the construction of Nelson's flagship, the immortal "Victory," and on whose deck the great English naval hero received his death wound at Trafalgar, was cut from the southern bank of the St. Lawrence between Cape Vincent and Clayton, and put into rafts at the foot of Long Island for floating to Quebec. Such is the interesting historic fact, and the old piers can still be seen at this point which were used in the rafting operations of that time.

From 1862 to the present day the firm of Folger Bros. has been the best known and most active of any business house in Kingston. Their history has been one continuous growth in many lines of business. With their



banking business, first established, they have large interests now in the Electric Street Railway Company of Kingston, the Gas and Electric Light Company, the Kingston Real Estate Company, the Kingston and Pembroke Railway Company, North American Telegraph Company and the St. Lawrence River and Thousand Island Steamboat Companies. These large and important businesses are all in first rate condition, and are proof of the business energy and tact of the Brothers Folger. They are known over a wide section of Canada and the States for their upright and downright business ways, their great enterprise and far-seeing calculations as to commercial affairs. These brothers have always held equal interests in their business concerns, and present a remarkable instance of family concord of the most intimate and cordial character, extending from childhood up to the present time. There are not now, nor have there ever been, the slightest differences in their family or business associations; and the result is shown in great industrial enterprises carried on by them in all the harmony and smoothness of a single master-mind. If they were to express an opinion as to the reasons for their success in life, they would quite likely attribute it to the strong family ties which have made them all work together with the greatest zeal and harmony. Owing no doubt to the trait of character developed so fully in their paternal grandfather, they take a lively interest in the St. Lawrence River and Thousand Island Steamboat Companies. They first developed and consolidated and systematized the large tourist and general traffic on the upper reaches of the noble river. They have carried over 5,000,000 of people on their steamers, and never wet a foot or injured a passenger. This remarkable record is as unique as it is creditable to the safe and wise manner in which this vast human commerce has been carried on for so many years. No expense or pains are spared to safely and suitably equip and man their passengers steamers, and their names are an assurance of thoughtful and competent management from deck hand to captain. Of the three brothers — each with special characteristics in a business way — Henry Folger is perhaps the best known outside of the immediate business management in and about Kingston. He generally represents the firm in all outside matters. He is a gentleman of fine accomplishments, and a great lover of books. His circle of friends includes many of the leading public men of the Dominion and of the United States, and he is



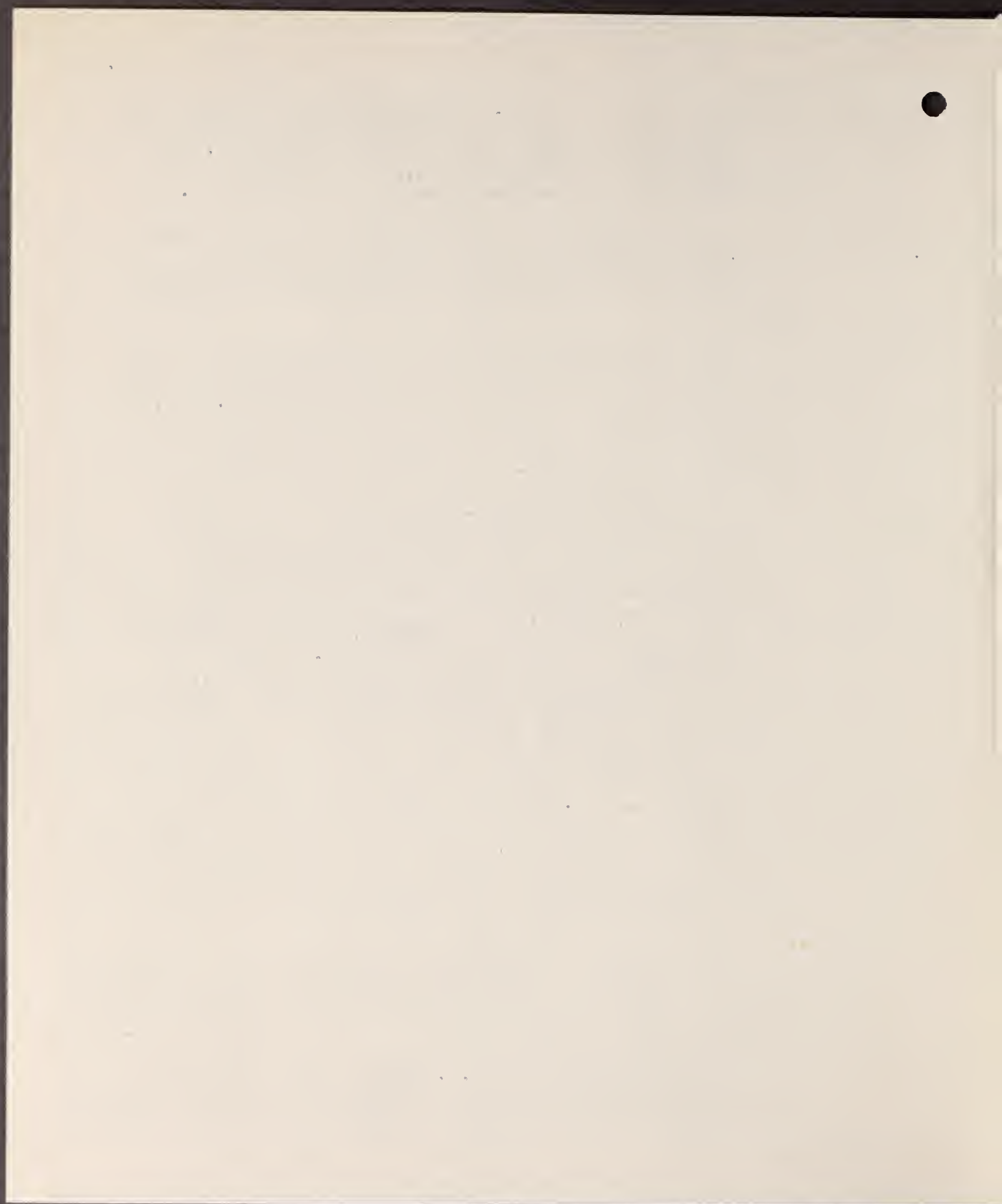
highly respected by all. His generous interest in the poor and needy are such as to endear him to those who are familiar with his unostentatious charities. He dislikes notoriety of any sort, and his modest benefactions are in consequence never heralded about.

The following interesting sketch from the Ottawa "Citizen," a leading Canadian journal, published at the capital of the Dominion, in speaking of the remor that he was to be appointed to an important position, said:

"The Kingston News announces that Mr. Henry Folger, of that ancient city, is to be appointed general manager of the Richelieu & Ontario Navigation Company. Mr. Folger is a member of the firm of Folger Brothers, who control the gas, electric light and street railway companies in Kingston, who own the island ferries there, are principal stockholders in the St. Lawrence River Navigation Company, are largely engaged in mining in the county of Frontenac, and manage the Kingston & Pembroke Railway as representatives of the Flower interest. He is a particularly shrewd capable business man, farsighted and sagacious, fertile in resources, with tact to win men and talent to govern men; possessed, moreover, with the genuine Yankee spirit of restless enterprise. Should he assume the management of the Richelieu Company, the great opportunities which that organization possesses of attracting travel to the splendid and unequalled water route down the great lakes from Toronto to Quebec will be developed to the utmost, and a new era will open up for the travelling multitudes as well as for the stockholders. Mr. Folger is known in private as a wit and epigrammatist, and in public as one of the most brilliant after-dinner speakers in Canada. He possesses a taste for literature and an acquaintance with the best authors, as well as discriminating insight into their work, which are seldom met with in such a sharp and energetic man of affairs."

This high commendation was merited, and is produced in this connection as independent testimony of a valuable kind, as showing the esteem in which he is held by the first authorities in the county where he now resides.

Several years ago, B.W. Folger, the senior member of the firm, distinguished himself by the vigorous manner in which he resented a discourtesy to the American flag



in Canada. It is the special aim of this member of the firm to watch every minute detail of the various businesses in which they are interested. Cool in judgment, keen in his knowledge of men and affairs, and of wide resources in a business way, the senior member is a rare helper in all that pertains to their public enterprises. Fred Folger, the youngest of the firm, combines the good qualities of his brothers, is very popular, and has ability of a high order. If he is less-widely known than his brothers, it is only because he is younger, for in all high business equipment he is their peer. He will not fail to bear aloft the firm's banner of untiring zeal and unquestioned integrity, so long as he is spared to do so. This strong trio of brothers have made for themselves, before the climacteric of life has been reached, a good and famous name and history worthy of emulation, and an honor to the environments in which their business lot and lives have been cast. Their example is worthy of the highest praise.

Albany County Commissioners for Conspiracies

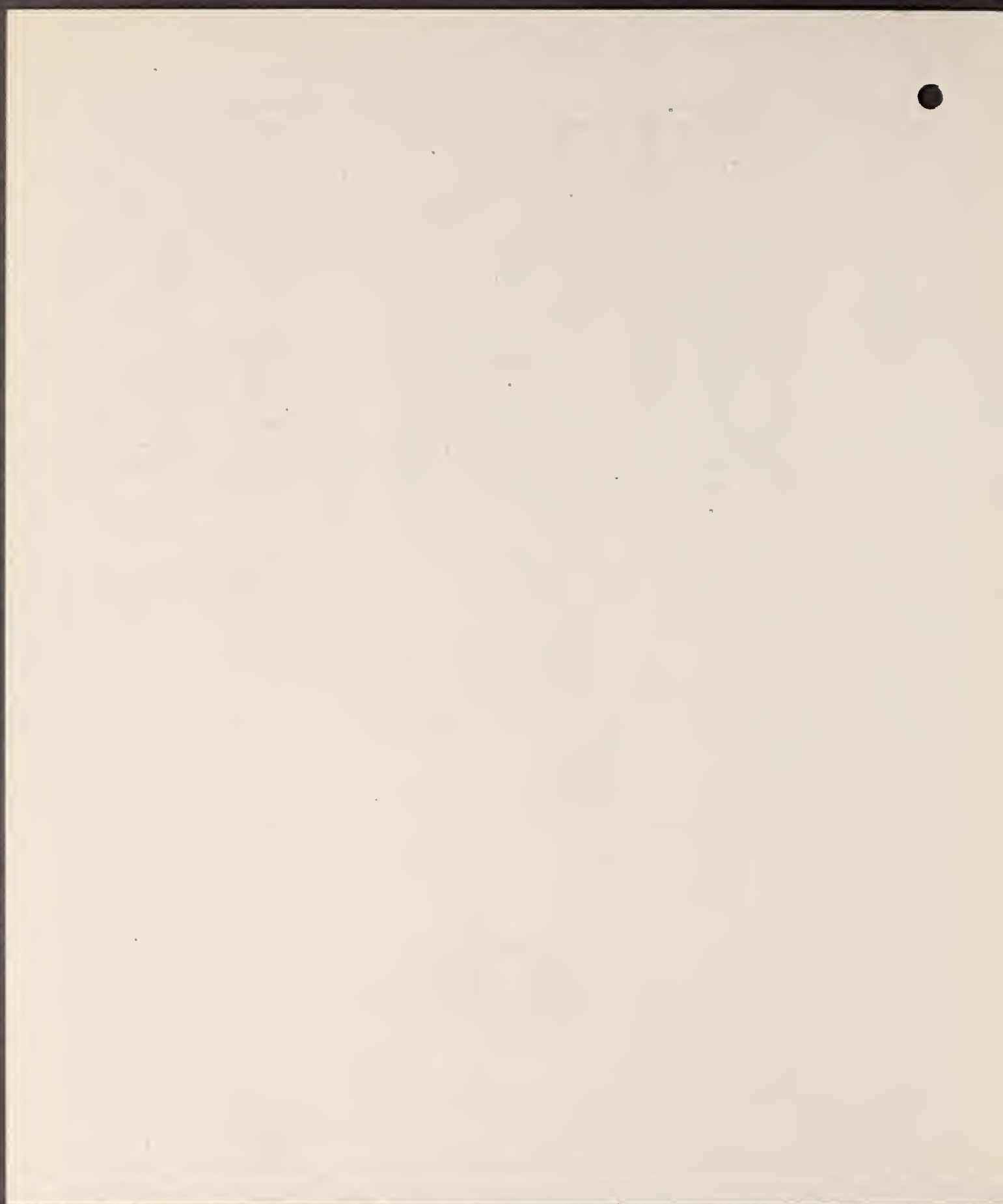
6 June 1778

Several Articles that were stolen from Henry Van Rensselaer were Ordered to be delivered to the said Henry Van Rensselaer and his Receipt taken therefor —

Ordered that the Treasurer pay to Isaac Sheldon £5.10.0 for taking the Stolen Effects of Henry Van Rensselaer concealed in the House of Daniel Folger according to his Account delivered in —

10 June 1778

Daniel Folger of Saratoga District in whose Possession was found a Watch belonging to Henry Van Rensselaer and which was stolen by Robert Sloss and One Hundred Dollars in Money was brought before us and we having examined him have thought proper to permit him to return Home on entering into Recognizance to appear at the next Supreme Court to give his evidence —



Daniel Folger on Recognizance in £ 50 -
William Coffin of Saratoga District
his Bail in £ 50 -

Daniel Folger delivered to The Board 6 Silver and
25 Continental Dollars which he said he had received of
Robert Sloss — Ordered that the Treasurer take the
Money into his Custody

